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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/575,933	11/15/2006	Vera Kreutzmann	12684.0018USWO	7049
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EXAMINER				
BLIZZARD, CHRISTOPHER JAMES				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3771				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/575,933

Applicant(s)

KREUTZMANN ET AL.

Examiner

CHRISTOPHER BLIZZARD

Art Unit

3771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/14/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 April 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-893)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/15/06

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to a preliminary amendment filed 4/14/06. As directed by the amendment claims 1-12 were amended, no claims was added or cancelled. Thus, claims 1-12 are presently pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 4, 5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claim 5 recites the limitation "the nozzle outlet" in the third line of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

5. Claim 7 recites the limitation "the third part" in the second line of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

6. Regarding claims 4 and 8, applicant discloses a method step in an apparatus claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1, 2, 4-10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Lester (3,097,645).

10. Regarding claim 1, Lester discloses an inhalation therapy device comprising a nebulising chamber (11), and an aerosol generator (fig.4) arranged to release an aerosol into the nebulising chamber (fig. 2) and which comprises a nozzle element (fig. 4). The nozzle element is comprised of a first part (14 or 16) attached to a second part (16 or 14) made of different materials (fig. 4, note crosshatching difference). Figure 4 of Lester clearly shows the first and second parts being made of different materials, it is inherent that one part will have different resilience from the other part. Even if Lester's first and second parts do not have different resilience, however, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the first part (14) out of a more resilient material so that it will be easily cleanable without a danger of breakage, see column 2 lines 15-17 of Lester.

11. Regarding claim 2, Lester discloses the first part (14) having a cross-section which tapers further than that of the second part (16) (fig. 4).

12. Regarding claim 4, Lester discloses that the first part (14) and the second part (16) are produced together and that the first part is molded on the second part (fig. 4, near #32).

13. Regarding claims 5 and 12, Lester discloses the first part (14) contains a nozzle outlet (29) (fig. 4).

14. Regarding claim 6, Lester discloses the nozzle has a third part (15), containing a nozzle outlet (26) (fig. 4).

15. Regarding claim 7, Lester discloses the nozzle has a third part (15) which has a cross section that tapers more than that of the first part (14) (fig. 4).

16. Regarding claim 8, Lester discloses the third part (15) is produced together with the first part (14) (fig. 4).

17. Regarding claim 9, Lester discloses the third part (15) is made of a different material than the first part (14) (fig. 4, note crosshatching difference). Figure 4 of Lester clearly shows the first and third parts being made of different material, it is inherent that one part will have different resilience from the other part. Even if Lester's first and third parts do not have different resilience however, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the first part (14) out of a more resilient material so that it will be easily cleanable without a danger of breakage, see column 2 lines 15-17 of Lester.

18. Regarding claim 10, Lester discloses an inhalation therapy device comprising a nebulising chamber (11), and an aerosol generator (fig.4) arranged to release an aerosol into the nebulising chamber (fig. 2) and which comprises a nozzle element (fig. 4). The nozzle element is comprised of a first part (14) attached to a member (16) of the device which is made of a different material (fig. 4, note crosshatching difference). Since the first part and member are made of different materials they will have different

resiliencies. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the first part (14) out of a more resilient material so that it will be easily cleanable without a danger of breakage as taught by Lester (column 2, lines 15-17).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

19. Claims 3 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lester (3,097,645).

20. Regarding claims 3 and 11, Lester discloses that the first part is made of a thermoplastic (column 5, lines 23). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the first part (14) out of a thermoplastic elastomer in order to provide that advantage of providing a more durable part, see column 5, lines 23-31 of Lester.

Conclusion

21. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. It includes; Parry (3,382,871) a nebulizer with multiple material nozzle assembly, Sevy (7,407,118) an atomization jet nozzle with multiple nozzle parts, Ballini (RE 36,070) a nasal spray device with multiple nozzle components, and Goodnow (4,300,545) a nozzle made of multiple materials.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTOPHER BLIZZARD whose telephone number is (571)270-7138. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 9:00AM -5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Justine Yu can be reached on (571)2724835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/CHRISTOPHER BLIZZARD/
Examiner, Art Unit 3771

/Justine R Yu/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3771